

Engaging Stakeholders in Cross-disciplinary and Cross-sector Work: International Lessons about Diversity and Inclusivity for Responsible Collaboration, Integration, and Learning

43rd Annual Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference
Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Navigating Between Generosity and Rigor
Host: Southern Utah University
Thursday-3:30-4:50 Panel (US-Mountain Time)

Workshop Team

- **Machiel Keesstra**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Diversity Officer at Faculty of Science, University of Amsterdam

- **Julie Thompson Klein**

Professor of Humanities Emerita at Wayne State University and International Research Affiliate in Transdisciplinarity Lab I USYS at ETH-Zurich

- **Ulli Vilsmaier**

Associate Professor at Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany and founder of the Responsive Research Collective

- **Juliana Merçon**

Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones en Educación, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico; Coordinator of the action group on interculturality and sustainability

- **Michael O'Rourke**

Director of the Center for Interdisciplinarity, Professor of Philosophy, and Faculty in AgBio Research, Michigan State University

Our Foci (Where we come from)

- Exploring the current heterogeneity of inter- and trans-disciplinarity, amplified by greater stakeholder involvement in research (Klein)
- Creating spaces for collaborative research between academic and societal domains, fostering integration and involvement (Vilsmaier)
- Finding an optimum in diversity of perspectives in interdisciplinary work, to avoid team tunnel vision and team incoherence (Keestra)
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- Producing the common good through epistemic and ethical-political care in trans-disciplinarity (Merçon)
- Working with community partners to develop and manage a trans-disciplinary, team-based graduate education program (O'Rourke)

Guiding Questions for This Session (Where we are headed)

- How can we expand conceptions of interdisciplinary collaboration and realize it in a way that responds to challenges of diversity and inclusion?
- How can we gain strategies and methods for creating interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial collaboration spaces and building student capacity to work with stakeholders?
- How can we expand criteria of success from traditional measures and metrics to broader range of indicators across sectors and cultures?

Our Approach: A Structured *Polylogue*

A *polylogue* is a form of dialogue involving more than two people aimed at understanding different meanings. In the connotation of intercultural philosophy we follow, it is a search for overlaps in concepts, including moving beyond Euro-, American-, or Sino-centrism.

The minimal rule:

“Wherever possible, look for transcultural overlapping of philosophical concepts, since it is probable that well-founded theses have developed in more than one cultural tradition”

Wimmer, F.M. (2004). *Interkulturelle pilosophie: Eine Einführung [Intercultural philosophy: An Introduction]*. Wien, Austria: WUV 2004, p. 67. (Vilsmaier translation)

**The Three Stages of Our *Polylogue*
Collaboration - Integration - Learning**

Stage 1 of *Polylogue*: Collaboration

What is of prime concern or interest to you about collaboration in the context of *engaging stakeholders in crossdisciplinary and cross-sector work emphasizing diversity and inclusion*?

- Instructions on using Jamboard, with link in Chat
- Panelists' round-table responses to Stage 1 question
- Audience participants' post-it notes on first Jamboard during their discussion
- Open discussion of panelists' and participants' responses

Stage 2 of Polylogue: Integration

What is of prime concern or interest to you about integration in the context of *engaging stakeholders in crossdisciplinary and cross-sector work emphasizing diversity and inclusion?*

- Instructions on using Jamboard, with link in Chat
- Panelists' round-table responses to Stage 2 question
- Audience participants' post-it notes on Jamboard during their discussion
- Open discussion of panelists' and participants' responses

Stage 3 of Polylogue: Learning

What is of prime concern or interest to you about Learning in the context of *engaging stakeholders in crossdisciplinary and cross-sector work emphasizing diversity and inclusion?*

- Instructions on using Jamboard, with link in Chat
- Panelists' round-table responses to Stage 3 question
- Audience participants' post-it notes on Jamboard during their discussion
- Open discussion of panelists' and participants' responses

Closing Reflections

Thanks for your participating
Bedankt voor uw deelname!
Vielen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme!
Gracias por Su participación!

- Machiel Keesstra, m.keestra@uva.nl
- Julie Thompson Klein, ad5820@wayne.edu
- Juliana Merçon, jmercon@uv.mx
- Michael O'Rourke, orourk51@msu.edu
- Ulli Vilsmaier, vilsmaier@leuphana.de